

Our Governing body 2021/22



Nicola Perkin – Chair of governors

I have been a local resident in Biddulph for 21 years having moved to the area to own my first home. I became interested in being a school governor when my Company encouraged me to use 6 days per year to work on community improvement or support and, having done some career work with a local high school, I became aware of the role a governor holds and researched and applied to Woodhouse Academy. As a mum to a 8 year old I have a keen interest in ensuring that the Biddulph Schools system continues to be successful and that our schools continue to play an integral part in both academic and community life.

For work I develop and lead large scale business transformation and continuous improvement programmes which span process, technology and organisational change. Typically the programmes will be enterprise wide and will deliver £multimillion margin improvement however the value can vary depending on complexity of project and other benefits, such as employee engagement, Customer satisfaction or Health & Safety/Compliance.

In my role as chair of governors I support the leadership team to continuously strive for excellence in both academic achievement and in delivering to the ethos and values of our school.



Caroline Anthony – Vice Chair of governors

As a busy mum to our four children, I have a passion to give the very best. Each of my children either has been or is currently attending Woodhouse Academy and I am very proud to be a part of something so special and unique.

Outside of school, I run two successful businesses and have worked in several educational settings.

I am an ambassador for the Smile Train charity that is a very close to our hearts as well as sponsoring children through World Vision, a Christian charity.



Geoff Butler

I joined Barclays Bank on leaving school and worked in various branches in the Thames Valley area until 1992. That year I moved up to the Barclays Research Centre in Cheshire and entered the world of 'business change'. My role as a business analyst required me (or the teams I managed) to understand and communicate the reasons for change (whether driven by legislation or technology), to gather business requirements from everyone impacted by the change, and then to design the new operations and processes necessary to support the change.

I retired from Barclays Bank at the beginning of 2017.

I am married with three grown up children. My Christian faith is important to me and I am very active within our local Methodist Church where I am the Treasurer, lead various groups and also coordinate a Drop In morning. I enjoy sport generally and walking in particular.



Eileen Cox

My name is Eileen Cox and I became a Governor of Woodhouse Middle School in March 2011. Although officially retired I like to be involved in voluntary work, and on that basis I do help out one of our County Councillors, which, in turn, enables me to be informed of what goes on in our community, which can be helpful in my role of Governor in the Academy.

One of the most satisfying events in my role as a Governor of Woodhouse was responding to the pleas of the President of the Twinning Association of our Twin Town of Fusignano in Italy, who was extremely keen to reinstate the exchange of visits of students between Biddulph and Fusignano and vice versa.

I am also heavily involved with our National Health Service being a Governor of West Midlands Ambulance Service. I serve on the Patient Congress of the North Staffordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, which leads to being invited to sit on several Committees relating to the provision of health. Locally I am the safeguarding officer for St Lawrence's church.



Gary Frost

I have lived in Macclesfield for over 30 years but was born and educated in Lancashire, where I went through the middle school and upper school system as a pupil. I have been passionate about foreign language learning and teaching since sixth form. I was a languages teacher and Head of Department for 36 years in total, which was always demanding but also very rewarding and interesting.

I was a mentor in school for Manchester Metropolitan University for 14 years and was asked to become an Associate Lecturer (i.e. Part-time) in the Department for Teacher Education upon retirement. I visited and observed trainees, did progress reviews, occasional lectures and interviews in the foreign language for postgraduate training places.

I always became involved in area groups out of school and was secretary of Macclesfield Area Language Teachers for 12 years and led the district TVEI group for 8 years – organising 2 A level conferences for over 200 students at Manchester Airport and 2 GCSE days in Macclesfield town centre. I have an ability to work well with a wide range of people and to empathise with others' points of view.



Liz Holt – Parent governor

I am the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)/Inclusion Lead and a member of the Senior Leadership Team at Oxhey First School in Biddulph, where I teach in Key Stage 2.

I am passionate about promoting children's emotional well-being and ensuring all pupils are supported appropriately to reach their full potential.

My interests, both in school and outside of it, are in the creative arts, especially music and I believe a creative curriculum engages pupils, broadens experience and develops the whole child. I am married, with two children and as a family we enjoy walking, rock climbing and being active in the outdoors.



Caroline Quinn

I have been a Headteacher in Leek for 10 years. My school is a member of a large, local Academy Trust, which is committed to the three tier school system. This allows me first-hand experience of closely working collaboratively with my fellow Academy First, Middle and High schools, and seeing the benefits that this collaborative view of education has for the children and families within our community. I am passionate about education and ensuring that all children are able to access the same quality learning experiences whatever their background, circumstances or school choice.

My daughter is a pupil at Woodhouse Academy and my son currently attends a local First school, so it is of paramount importance to me that Woodhouse continues to provide the very best teaching and learning experiences for pupils, and is at the forefront of educational thinking.



Rhian Baddeley – Staff governor

I have had the pleasure of working at Woodhouse for 4 years now and have lived in Biddulph for the same length of time. I live with my husband, also a teacher at Woodhouse, and my son.

I teach science and have always questioned everything in life! I enjoy spending time outside (in my garden and walking) and love baking and cooking. I am passionate about supporting the school in any way I can, as it is truly a fabulous place for children to learn and adults to work.



Phillip Hassall – Parent governor

I have been a local resident in Biddulph since 2006 when I married and bought my first house. I completed a degree in Mathematical Education in 2004 and spent the next 14 years as a secondary school Maths Teacher with wide range of additional roles including pastoral, Pupil Premium and second in department. In 2018 I left teaching and started working for the Ambulance Service and have qualified as a paramedic. Alongside this, I teach first aid for a private company.

Outside of work, I volunteer with The Scout Association, something I have been a member of since the age of six. This allows me to bring together my love of the outdoors with working with Young People and giving something back to the community. I am married with a daughter who is currently at Woodhouse.